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Mildred Dean, Central High School, Washington, D. C. These Officers, together with the retiring President, Professor Helen H. Tanzer, of Hunter College, form the Executive Committee. Professor Knapp continues as the Representative of the Association on the Council of the American Classical League.

C. K.

LATIN PLAYS, IN ENGLISH, AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

For three consecutive years the students of Lafayette College, at Easton, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Professor John R. Crawford, have produced plays of Plautus and Terence, in English acting-versions prepared by Professor Crawford—the *Andria*, the *Curculio*, and the *Hauton Timoroumenos*. The performance of the last named play, which was presented under the English title of "Pitiful Parents", was so successful, that nearby Colleges and Universities were seeking to have the players give extra performances at those Colleges and Universities.

C. K.

MONOSYLLABLES IN CLASSICAL AND ENGLISH VERSE

In an interesting paper On the Frequency of Short Words in Verse, *THE CLASSICAL WEEKLY* 15:73-76, Dr. Sturtevant has pointed out by means of word-counts a striking difference between Latin and Greek on the one hand and English on the other: in English, verse contains more monosyllables than does prose; in Latin, verse contains fewer. By analyzing his data he has shown that the monosyllables are of two types, "insignificant" (corresponding roughly to what may be called 'syntax' words) and "significant". He shows further that the latter form a very small group in Latin and Greek, but a large group in English, especially in English verse.

It may be, however, that there are explanations of these differences between the classical languages and English which Dr. Sturtevant has failed to take into account. He has indeed shown that classical verse has more dissyllables than prose, and argues from this that the former used the shortest words available, provided that they were significant. But there are perhaps other factors of considerable importance. The preference of the English poets for significant monosyllables is due not merely to the laconic tendency of verse, but also perhaps to their preference for words of Anglo-Saxon origin, which are generally shorter than those of Latin origin. This preference, which is a well-recognized one, is due in turn to several factors: one is the archaic, and therefore poetic, flavor of many Anglo-Saxon words. Poetry is generally more conservative than prose and preserves the older diction. It should not be argued that the explanation is just the opposite and that the laconic tendency of verse led to the use of Anglo-Saxon words because they were monosyllables. It is a recognized fact that certain of the Victorian writers deliberately gave preference to Anglo-Saxon words as such because of their poetic quality. Tennyson and Browning, whom one finds quoted for this characteristic, lead Dr. Sturtevant's list in the number of monosyllables. An examination of the significant monosyllables in his material with reference to their derivation would settle the question.

Another point may be made. The range of the percentages of insignificant monosyllables in Greek and Latin authors is considerable (from 21.40 to 40.

39 in Greek and from 13.43 to 31.57 in Latin), while in English authors it is much less (from 40.52 to 53.02). This would seem to show a much greater distaste for the insignificant monosyllable in the verse of the classical languages than of English. In fact, it may be questioned whether such distaste actually exists in English verse.

It would be very interesting to have additional counts made and analyzed. Apparently there is a difference between Greek and Latin in the attitude towards significant monosyllables. Greek verse seems to favor them, Latin verse to reject them. But the statistics thus far gathered do not justify a positive statement on this point. Further study may also show that the difference between classical and English versification explains certain of the statistical phenomena.

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

B. L. ULLMAN

THE LOEB CLASSICAL LIBRARY ONCE AGAIN

There is just room, on this last page of the current volume, to mention two more volumes in the Loeb Classical Library. One of these is a rendering of Philostratus and Eunapius, *The Lives of the Sophists*, by Mrs. Wilmer Cave Wright, of Bryn Mawr College, author of an excellent *Short History of Greek Literature*, and translator, in the Loeb Classical Library, of Julian. The other is the first of a three-volume translation of the *Scriptores Historiae Augustae*, by Professor David Magie, Jr., of Princeton University. This volume contains accounts of the lives of Hadrian, Aelius, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, Lucius Verus, Avidius Cassus, Commodus, Pertinax, Didius Julianus, Septimius Severus, Pescennius Niger, and Clodius Albinus.

C. K.

THE NEW YORK CLASSICAL CLUB

The New York Classical Club held its final Meeting for 1921-1922 on Saturday, May 13, at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The President, Dr. Arthur A. Bryant, had felt unable to allow his name to be presented for reelection, and his decision was accepted with regret and with appreciation of his efficient services. Dr. Jane Grey Carter, of Hunter College, was elected President, Mr. George H. Beal, De Witt Clinton High School, Secretary-Treasurer, and Miss Margaret Y. Henry, Wadleigh High School, Censor.

The programme consisted of two valuable papers. Dr. Richard M. Gummere spoke on Seneca, *A Most Modern Ancient*. He showed that Seneca wrote for the future, not for his own time. He was criticized by the conservatives of his day for his innovations of style, but he came into his own when the early Church Fathers discovered that Christian doctrines and ethics were latent in his work. His monotheism and humanitarian teachings especially commended him to them as a pagan who foreshadowed Christianity. Dr. Gummere outlined Seneca's influence on medieval and modern thinkers and suggested that he still has a contribution to make to the new, more spiritual civilization that it lies with our own age to build. Dr. Gummere is about to publish a study of Seneca which will give in more detail what he suggested in this paper.

Dr. Marion Mills Miller, formerly of Princeton University, read delightfully from his metrical versions of Sappho, both the old and the newly discovered fragments. He wove his translation, supplemented by some original verse, into what he called *The Romance of Sappho*, giving a vivid and sympathetic picture of her strange life-story. Dr. Miller's verses are all